

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: UNGA, ESCAP, TECH, PINR
SUBJ: VIEWS AND PERFORMANCE OF UNCSTD SYG DA COSTA AT
BANGKOK

1. SUMMARY. AT ESCAP REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING IN
BANGKOK JULY 17-21 UNCSTD SYG DA COSTA CONTINUED PLAY
CONTROVERSIAL LEADERSHIP ROLE, INTERSPERSING SUGGESTIONS
ON CONFERENCE GOALS AND ADVICE TO GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING
FAVORABLE REACTION TO US PROPOSAL FOR FITC (PARA 7).
DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE REQUESTED ON DA COSTA PROPOSAL FOR
NEW UN MECHANISM TO CARRY OUT UNCSTD MANDATE POST VIENNA
(PARA 5). END SUMMARY.

2. ON SECOND DAY AT BANGKOK MEETING, DA COSTA HIGH-
HANDEDLY DECLARED WELL-DONE ESCAP REGIONAL PAPER "OF MINOR
IMPORTANCE" COMPARED TO ESCAP IDEAS FOR PROGRAM OF ACTION
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WHICH SHOULD BE CENTRAL FOCUS OF MEETING, THUS DICTATING
COURSE OF PROCEEDINGS. WITH STRONG PROMPTING FROM ESCAP
SECRETARIAT, CHAIR (THAILAND) RETALIATED BY CONVERTING
PLENARY INTO WORKING GROUP OPEN ONLY TO PARTICIPATING
GOVERNMENTS. FACT THAT REPS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
ALLOWED INED IN HALL WHILE SYG AND HIS STAFF EXCLUDED WAS CAUSE
FOR SOME OPEN SENSITIVITY AND RESENTMENT THEIR PART.

DA COSTA THUS LOSING COMMANDING PRESENCE AND RESPECT HE SHOULD ENJOY. DESPITE THIS CAPRICIOUS LEADERSHIP, PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS IN THIS REGION CLEARLY DEDICATED TO MAKING UNCSTD AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT TO FURTHER THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION INDIAN DEL BLAMED US FOR SUPPORTING DA COSTA. WE CLARIFIED THAT HOWEVER CONTROVERSIAL DA COSTA MAY BE, HE NONETHELESS REMAINS DULY-ELECTED SYG OF UNCSTD AND WE ALL MUST LEARN TO WORK WITH RATHER THAN AGAINST HIM.

4. SOV DEL TOLD US DA COSTA INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE AT PREP COM III IN NYC IN SEPTEMBER HE HAS NO RPT NO AMBITIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON ROLE IN S&T IN UN STRUCTURE POST-VIENNA, RATHER SEES HIS FUTURE AS CAREER AMBASSADOR IN BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

5. PRIVATELY STIMULATED BY USDEL, CHAIR (AUSTRALIA) ASKED DA COSTA FOR HIS VIEWS ON UN INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS NARY DA COSTA SAID CSTD TOO LARGE AND UNWIELDY TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING, COORDINATION AND MONITORING WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED FOLLOWING VIENNA. NO NEW UN INSTITUTION NECESSARY, RATHER A NEW MECHANISM, PREFERABLY A SMALL SELECT GROUP OF KEY COUNTRIES CHOSEN BY AND RESPONSIBLE TO UNGA. GROUP COULD BE ADVISED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACAST BUT A NEWLY CONSTITUTED ACAST COMPOSED OF TRULY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONALS IN FIELD OF S&T. IN DA COSTA VIEW NEITHER ECOSOC NOR UNESCO COULD SATISFACTORILY DISCHARGE NEEDED PLANNING AND MONITORING FUNCTIONS BECAUSE THEIR AUTHORITY NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENCOMPASS ALL SPECIALIZED UN AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH S&T. WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL FOR ONGOING DISCUSSIONS WITH DA COSTA IN GENEVA JULY 24-28.

6. IN PRIVATE SESSION WITH USDEL AND LATER IN HIS WRAP-UP AT CONCLUDING PLENARY, DA COSTA ADVANCED TWO OTHER GOALS OR RESULTS HE EXPECTS OF UNCSTD: A) SOME MECHANISM FOR "HORIZONTAL COORDINATION" (TCDC ELEMENT) WHEREBY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELP ONE ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY IN COMBINING FORCES TO NEGOTIATE JOINTLY WITH TNC'S AND GOVERNMENTS WHERE THERE MAY BE COMMONALITY IN PROJECTS AND GOALS; AND B) FIVE DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, E.G. SOLAR ENERGY, REMOTE SENSING OR TROPICAL DISEASES, SHOWING WHAT MONEY, BRAINS AND POLITICAL WILL CAN ACHIEVE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DA COSTA HAD ADVANCED THIS LAST IDEA EARLIER IN NEW YORK AT UNCSTD PREPARATORY BUREAU

MEETING.

7. COMMENTING ON US PROPOSAL FOR FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ADVANCED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN CARACAS IN MARCH, DA COSTA CALLED IT "VERY GOOD", BUT THOUGHT IT INDISPENSABLE THAT THERE BE AN ADVISORY COUNCIL INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ASSUMING NO OBJECTIONS IN US LEGISLATION. LDC REPS SHOULD BE EMINENT PERSONS, NOT JUST FIGUREHEADS.

8. SPEAKING PRIVATELY OF US NATIONAL PAPER, DA COSTA URGED IT BE OF HIGH QUALITY, NOT "CUT-AND-PASTE JOB" AS WAS DONE FOR CACTAL IN BRASILIA WHERE US PAPER JUDGED "WORST". URGED US TO MEET AUGUST 1 DEADLINE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALLOW SECRETARIAT 6 WEEKS BEFORE PREP COM III TO EXTRACT PROPOSALS SUCH AS FITC FOR UNCSTD PROGRAM OF ACTION.
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